

New England Newsclip Agency, Inc.
Box 2013, Boston, 02103 • 743-4200

700470019-0 Saltonstall, Leverett
CIA 5-02.2

News to
GARDNER, Mass.
Circ. 7,555

Saltonstall Says U.S. Must Remain Strong To Exercise World Leadership

Describing the United States as the leader of the nations of the free world, Senator Leverett Saltonstall said yesterday that the nation must be strong enough to exercise this leadership.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Gardner Rotary Club held in the student lounge at Mount Wachusett Community College, Senator Saltonstall said that strength would also be needed to end the Viet Nam conflict. He noted that Communist countries respect strength and strength alone. "We know we can't get what we want without a show of strength and we must show this strength if we want to get to the conference table," he said.

The senior senator from Massachusetts said he was well aware that President Johnson would have to make many important decisions with

regard to the Vietnamese situation and that he for one would support the President if he should decide to bomb Hanoi, capital of North Viet Nam, or blockade Haiphong, the country's chief port.

Senator Saltonstall drew applause when he added that he felt Congress should pass a resolution in support of the President's efforts in trying to end the conflict in Viet Nam, and accordingly give him a vote of confidence.

Senator Saltonstall touched briefly on domestic matters. He noted that a considerable number of programs of social benefit were initiated by Congress during the past year but that during the next session Congress will have to spend more time working on details of this legislation. He said that this would be necessary because some of these programs were passed in haste

and that enough thought and study had not been given to some of them.

Cited as an example of legislation prepared without study was the rentsubsidy bill which Saltonstall said he opposed. He said he noted certain inequities in the bill and that because of this he had recommended a \$500 thousand appropriation to study the program so that more realistic legislation could be prepared.

Senator Saltonstall had an answer for critics of the Central Intelligence Agency who have been charging that the agency has been setting policy for the government. The senator noted that as a member of the Senate committee which works with the CIA, he has full confidence in the agency which actually serves as a fact finding body. He denied

that the agency has set governmental policy.

The senator also made mention of the tremendous strides being made in the space program, pointing out that some \$13 billion was provided for research during the past year. He compared that with the \$100 thousand which was provided for research in 1914.

He noted too that in the field of commercial aviation the government has made available some \$1 million in research funds to study new airplanes which will attain the speed of 18-hundred miles an hour.

The senator made no comment yesterday with regard to the announcement he made in Boston on Wednesday that he would not seek re-election next year. He acknowledged receipt of a phone call from Senator Edward Kennedy Wednesday night in which the junior senator expressed the hope that he (Saltonstall) had made the right decision.

Senator Saltonstall was introduced at yesterday's luncheon meeting by Dr. Clarence Quimby, a member of the Gardner School Committee. Dr. Arthur Haley, president of the community college, who served as host for the meeting, spoke briefly prior to the introduction welcoming the Rotarians to the college.

In all, some 150 Gardner Rotarians attended with special guests including representatives of Rotary Clubs from Fitchburg, Athol and Westminster. Dr. Harold Fiske, club president presided at the meeting.